

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7174
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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USINT BAGHDAD
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EG IS US XF
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF AFTERMATH BEGIN-CARTER TALKS

SUMMARY: PRESS MARCH 25 HIGHLIGHTS FERMENT IN ISRAEL
OVER CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT AND BEGIN'S
CONTINUING AS PM. PRESS ALSO REPORTS VANCE PRESS
CONFERENCE, U.S.-GOE CONSULTATIONS ON RESULTS OF BEGIN
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VISIT, AND MEETING GOE NSC TODAY TO DISCUSS RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS AND GOE STRATEGY. EDITORIALS SAY U.S. MUST
NOW SEE BEGIN AS OPPONENT OF PEACE AND DECISIVELY DECLARE
ITS POSITION. ONE WRITER COUNSELS ARABS TO BE PATIENT
AND CAREFULLY CONSIDER HOW TO TILT "U.S. AND SOVIET
POLICIES" IN FAVOR ARABS. ANOTHER ACKNOWLEDGES CARTER'S
"COURAGE" AND SUGGESTS U.S. SHOULD NOW PUBLICLY DEMAND

IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAELI FERMENT. PRESS PROMINENTLY COVERS ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN'S CALL FOR FORMATION NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT IN WAKE FAILURE OF BEGIN TALKS. LABOR PARTY REPORTEDLY REJECTED CALL, BUT SAID IT WILL PROPOSE RESIGNATION OF BEGIN. PRESS CITES TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS CONSIDER BEGIN HAS DAMAGED ISRAELI IMAGE WITH SETTLEMENTS POLICY AND THAT CARTER EXPECTED TO ADOPT OPENLY HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD BEGIN TO PRECIPITATE HIS DOWNFALL.

2. UNITED STATES. PRESS GIVES GOOD COVERAGE TO VANCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE. PRESS ALSO REPORTS U.S. JEWISH PRESSURE ON CARTER, CITING RABBI SCHINDLER'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS THAT BEGIN NOT ONLY LEADER OF ISRAEL BUT ENTIRE JEWISH PEOPLE AND JEWS IN AMERICA WOULD NOT ALLOW CARTER TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR OIL DOLLARS. HOWEVER, BEGIN "INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE" IN TALKS HAS LED TO REACTION AND AMERICAN POLLS SHOWING ISRAELI POPULARITY HAS GONE DOWN, AND THAT AMERICA NOW SUPPORTS "EVEN-HANDED STAND TOWARDS ME." NY TIMES EDITORIAL WARNING BEGIN AGAINST INTRANSIGENCE, ACKNOWLEDGING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL, AND SAYING THAT CARTER HAS TAKEN "WISER STAND OF THE ARGUMENT" ALSO PROMINENTLY REPORTED. AT NSC MEETING TODAY SADAT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DISCUSS ME SITUATION IN LIGHT OF BEGIN-CARTER TALKS, SOUTH LEBANON, PALESTINIAN CAUSE, AND ARAB SITUATION.

3. COMMENTARY. EDITORIALS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO RESULTS OF TALKS. AHAM SAYS WASHINGTON HAS NOW REALIZED BEGIN'S TRUE STANCE AND THEREFORE MUST DECISIVELY DECLARE ITS POSITION. GUMHURIYYA CRITICIZES BEGIN CLAIM THAT "PEACE TREATY WITH EGYPT" COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHIN DAYS AND REMINDS BEGIN THAT WHAT IS REQUIRED IS ISRAELI DECLARATION COMMITTING IT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LAND AND RECOGNITION PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS. MUSTAFA AMIN IN AKHBAR EL-YOM SAID HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR BEGIN'S ARROGANCE AND OBSTINACY AMERICA WOULD NOT HAVE SEEN THINGS SO CLEARLY AND RECOGNIZED "ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE" WHICH BEGIN'S POLICY SUBJECTING U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN PEOPLES TO FOR "SAKE OF A FEW SETTLEMENTS." GUMHURIYYA SAYS PRESENT SITUATION AT "DEAD END" AND ADVISES ARABS TO BE PATIENT WITH U.S. AND THINK DEEPLY ON HOW TO "TILT THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET POLICIES IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS." HAMD FOUAD SAYS U.S. PRESIDENT CAN NOW PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THAT U.S. ASKS ISRAEL TO PULL OUT IMMEDIATELY FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORY. FOUAD

ACKNOWLEDGES CARTER'S COURAGE AND SAYS THIS NOW REQUIRES
HIM TO TURN HIS DECLARATIONS INTO COMMITMENTS. EILTS

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